

WORD COUNT STANDARDS

<u>City Attorney's Impartial Analysis</u>	-----	<u>500 word limit</u>	-----	EC § 9280
<u>Primary Arguments</u>	-----	<u>300 word limit</u>	-----	EC § 9282
<u>Rebuttal Arguments</u>	-----	<u>250 word limit</u>	-----	EC § 9285

The word count standards (effective for 2015 California elections) are as follows:

- 1) Punctuation is not counted. Symbols such as “&” (and) is not considered punctuation, and each symbol is counted as one word.
- 2) Each word (including “I” or “a” or “an”), regardless of size, shall be counted as one word except as specified in this section.
- 3) All proper nouns, including geographical names, shall be considered as one word; for example, “City of Hermosa Beach” or “City and County of Los Angeles” shall each be counted as one word.
- 4) Each abbreviation for a word, phrase, or expression shall be counted as one word; for example, “UCLA,” “PTA,” “U.S.M.C.”
- 5) Hyphenated words that appear in any generally available dictionary, published in the United States at any time within the 10 calendar years immediately preceding the election for which the words are counted, shall be considered as one word; for example, “Attorney-at-law.” Each part of all other hyphenated words shall be counted as a separate word.
- 6) Dates shall be counted as one word, whether alpha/numerical or numerical; for example, “March 3, 2014” or “3/3/14.”
- 7) (a) A number consisting of one or more digits shall be counted as one word [e.g. “13 ½” or “1975-76”]. (b) Monetary amounts consisting of a combination of digits are counted as one word [e.g. “\$1,000”]. (c) Monetary amounts consisting of a combination of words and digits are counted as two words [e.g. “\$4 million”]. (d) Any number which is spelled shall be considered as a separate word or words {e.g., “one” is counted as one word; “one hundred” is counted as two words; while “100” is counted as one word}.
- 8) Telephone/FAX numbers shall be counted as one word [e.g., “1-234-567-8900”].
- 9) Internet website/email addresses shall be counted as one word; for example, “<http://www.hermosabch.org>” - “www.lavote.net” – “edoerfling@hermosabch.org”

If the submitted text exceeds the specified word limit, the author shall be asked to delete or change a sufficient number of words (or a full sentence) to bring the statement into compliance with all requirements.

The text shall be printed exactly as submitted. Only obvious misspellings are corrected, as long as the intended meaning of the author is not changed.